



# LABORATORY *Spotlight*

The National High Magnetic Field Laboratory

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## CIRL Educational Program *Science, Tobacco & You* Implemented in Connecticut and Illinois

The Center for Integrating Research and Learning (CIRL) continues to develop and disseminate innovative programs for students and teachers and to expand the mission of educational programs at the NHMFL. The *Science, Tobacco & You* program has now been adopted in three states: Florida, Connecticut, and Illinois.

As many as a 1,000 Connecticut fourth and fifth grade teachers are returning to their classrooms this fall with digital cameras, CD-ROMS, stethoscopes, lung bags with mouthpieces, stopwatches, and other tools and knowledge to teach students how the body works and the effects of tobacco on the body. Like Florida, the Connecticut program is being paid from tobacco settlement funds. *Science, Tobacco & You* is a multimedia, multidisciplinary science curriculum resource that ultimately aims to encourage students to become "scientifically literate" citizens.

This fall, CIRL Director Sam Spiegel, Assistant Director Pat Dixon, and Project Manager Karl Hook are conducting "Train-the-Trainer" sessions in Connecticut and Illinois, as well as training and booster sessions in Florida. "Train-the-Trainer" sessions are for teachers new to the curriculum resource and/or are willing to serve as a facilitator in their school. Booster sessions

were recently developed to train teachers who did not receive direct dissemination of the unique curriculum.

Other Center activities and events continue to bridge the gap between real-world science research and classroom science. Recently, an outreach on science in the elementary classroom was conducted with 135 pre-service teachers at Florida State University. The Center actively participated in "Beyond the Blackboard," an event that attracted area teachers to a 2-day mini-conference. Center sessions were well received and well attended. The NHMFL will again host 26 middle school students from the Academic Resource Center for Spring semester mentorships. Students will work in teams with a researcher on a project that gives students a taste of the process of real-world science.

The NHMFL, so far this year, has toured and provided outreach for over 4,100 students, teachers, and general public. In addition, CIRL holds several regular events such as the biannual Ambassador Meeting. The fall meeting attracted over 50 area educators, who learned about MagLev train technology, magnetic launching systems, optical microscopy for classrooms, classroom sensory research, and the NHMFL Spanish Moss Project.





The Spanish Moss Project was developed in collaboration with Dr. Roy Odom and the Geochemistry Department, as part of this summer's Research Experiences for Teachers program. Current research points to the use of Spanish moss as an atmospheric indicator of heavy metal pollutants. To explore this topic, area students and "RET" teachers collected samples of Spanish moss

for analysis and started statewide collection efforts. At this writing, over 300 classrooms around the State of Florida have participated. Plans are to expand the project to include all southeastern states where Spanish moss proliferates. Samples will be analyzed and a Web-based database of information set up for teachers and students to access in their classrooms.

*For more information on "Science, Tobacco & You," please visit the Web site at <http://scienceu.magnet.fsu.edu>. For the Center for Integrating Research and Learning, go to <http://k12.magnet.fsu.edu>.*